

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

In the Matter of the Application of: H. Herrmann, et al.
For: **Improved Contact for Error Resistant Coupling of Electrical Signals**

Serial No.: Unknown Filed: August 8, 2001
Examiner: Unknown Group Art Unit: Unknown

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M. Pruden

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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Sir:

Please amend, without prejudice, the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Delete the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 24.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 27: Figure 4a is an alternative embodiment of the present

A1 invention with a tapered high resistive portion.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 29: Figure 4b is an alternative embodiment of the instant

Ad invention with a stepwise-tapered high resistive portion.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1:

Figure 4c is an alternative embodiment of the present invention with a resistive portion of mixed high resistive materials.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 4:

Figure 4d is an alternative embodiment of the present invention with a conductive barb in the high resistive portion.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 7:

Figure 4e is an alternative embodiment of the present invention with the high resistive portion extending into a hole in the conductive portion.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 10:

Figure 4f is an alternative embodiment of the present invention with a high resistive housing.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 12:

Figure 4g is an alternative embodiment of the present invention with a high resistive inset in the housing.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 15:

Figures 4h and 4i are an alternative embodiment of the present invention with a high resistance inset in the housing.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 18:

Figure 5 is an illustration of the instant invention utilized on a circuit board.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20:

Figure 6 is an illustration of the instant invention being used on a cylindrical connector.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 22: Figure 7 is an illustration of the various prior art connectors.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 28: Referring to Figure 1, the preferred embodiment of the connector assembly of the present invention comprises a plug 6 for mating with a corresponding receptacle 8. It should be recognized that although only one plug contact 7 is shown in detail for simplicity, there are typically at least two or more plug contacts 7 within every plug 6 for mating with corresponding receptacle contacts 15. The shape of the plug 6 is not central to the present invention. For simplicity, the plug 6 and plug contact 7 are illustrated as rectangular, although those of skill in the art will realize that many other shapes could be used without departing from the spirit of the present invention. The plug contact 7 comprises a conductive portion 14 which can be made from any conductive material, (such as brass, nickel, gold, copper or a superconductor, etc.) and a highly resistive portion 12. The resistive portion 12 is generally rectangular shaped and extends across the width W of the plug contact 7. The resistive portion 12 comprises a layer of highly resistive material inset into the surface 16 of the plug contact 7, with a first end 11 of the resistive portion 12 exposed to the receptacle 8 and a second end 13 of the resistive portion 12 in contact with the conductive portion 14.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 26: In operation, the first end of the plug 6 is inserted into the cavity of the receptacle 8. The receptacle contact 15 will make first contact with the resistive portion 12. Since it is contemplated that the electronic system will be energized, this will permit energy from the electronic system to begin flowing from the receptacle contact 15, through the resistive portion 12 and into the conductive portion 14 of the plug contact 7. The